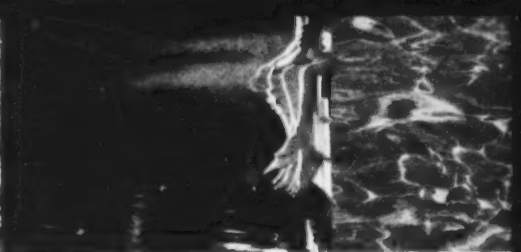
leading the way
working **together**
making a difference



Alberta

message from the minister

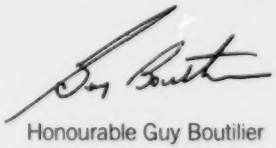
Alberta was the first province in Canada to have a Ministry of Environment, dating back to 1971. This reflects the deep commitment Albertans and the Government of Alberta has towards our environment.

As Alberta's Environment Minister, I remain personally committed to ensuring this province's land, air and water are protected. In fact, following the train derailment at **Lake Wabamun**, the first-ever **Environmental Protection Commission** was formed to review and make recommendations on Alberta's ability to respond to environmental incidents. Chaired by University of Alberta Chancellor Eric Newell, the Commission's recommendations will help Alberta achieve a world-class system for managing risks and responding to emergencies, including environmental disasters. One of the Commission's recommendations was the formation of the Alberta Environmental Emergency Response Team, also known as the Environmental "**SWAT**" team.

In 2005-06, Alberta Environment continued to provide leadership in ensuring the sustainability of our diverse environment, while balancing strong communities and a prosperous economy. My Ministry, together with our partners, continued implementation of ***Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*** and the province's climate change action plan, ***Albertans & Climate Change: Taking Action***. In the last fiscal year, it has become increasingly important to work together to ensure Alberta remains a world leader in environmental management.

This Fall 2006, we are hosting a **Youth Environment Summit** to tap into the 21st century thinking of tomorrow's leaders. The summit will bring Alberta youth together to share concerns and ideas to enhance environmental protection in the province. By working together, we can develop the big ideas and the technology to make a difference, and by sharing them with the world we can put Alberta on the map as the environmental capital of North America.

I applaud everyone who helped make the 2005-06 fiscal year a progressive one for Alberta Environment. Together, we can continue to ensure Alberta's valued land, air and water are sustained for future generations.



Honourable Guy Boutilier
Minister of Environment

106-07414/

protecting our air

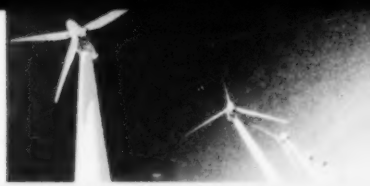
> Alberta Environment renewed its commitment to air quality issues in Alberta through our involvement with the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA), a multi-stakeholder, consensus-based organization.

> A new strategic plan for ambient air quality monitoring in Alberta was developed through a CASA project team. The new plan will take into consideration all monitoring conducted by industry, airsheds, the provincial government and the federal government.

> The department implemented the CASA Particulate Matter and Ozone Management Framework, which is Alberta's commitment to ensuring the Canada-wide Standards for Air Quality are achieved by 2010.

> A new Air Monitoring Directive was developed that outlines acceptable methods for air monitoring conducted by industry, airshed, and government organizations. This Directive will ensure the collection of high quality, consistent, and verifiable air quality data in Alberta.

> A new emergency response air-monitoring vehicle was completed in June 2005 that will allow firefighters to respond immediately and monitor air quality during emergencies in central and northern Alberta. The $600,000 vehicle was made possible through a partnership between Alberta Environment and Edmonton Fire Rescue Services.



taking action on climate change

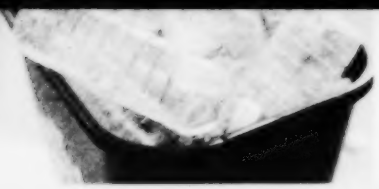
> Alberta implemented Canada's first greenhouse gas reporting program for large emitters, working closely with other provinces and the federal government to ensure this program complements a national greenhouse gas reporting program.

> Through Climate Change Central, Alberta Environment supported the Drake Landing Solar Community in Okotoks. This money-saving and groundbreaking solar technology, the first of its kind in North America, can be applied to both residential and industrial projects.

> At the United Nations 11th Conference of the Parties climate change conference in Montreal, Environment Minister Guy Boutilier actively promoted Alberta's leadership role in climate change, and influenced Canada's international position on climate change. Successes include a white paper on Alberta's international position, the Minister representing the Premier at a leadership forum and Alberta Environment staff promoting Alberta's actions for long-term technological solutions.

> The government continued to demonstrate their action on climate change through several initiatives:

- Alberta Environment provided ongoing support for Climate Change Central to educate citizens and support projects that lead to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions;
- Alberta Environment added four additional fuel-efficient and hybrid vehicles to its fleet.
- Working through Climate Change Central, Alberta Environment supported several energy efficiency programs including:
  - Exit to Savings, a program promoting light emitting diode exit signs;
  - Phase Two of the Furnace Rebate Program; and
  - Soak Up the Savings, a program providing rebates for front load washing machines.



protecting our land

> The Land Use Framework was initiated as a cross-ministry initiative with seven co-lead ministries. The framework will be a key foundation piece to guide and sustain the province's resource-based economy and environment for the next 15 to 20 years. The result will be more integrated policies and initiatives, and more effective planning and decision-making. Development of the framework will engage Albertans in a discussion of current and future land use needs, issues, and opportunities. It will provide an overarching vision and outcomes for land use on private and public land in the province.

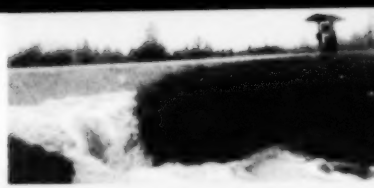
> In March 2006, the department completed stakeholder consultation regarding a long-term strategy for waste reduction and management in Alberta. Representatives from all areas of waste management identified ways to reduce waste, develop the infrastructure required to encourage resource recovery over disposal, and to ensure environmental protection as changes are implemented.

> As part of the Waste Management Assistance Program, which was established to help urban and rural municipalities manage their waste, more than two dozen Alberta communities were provided assistance to upgrade or expand their landfills or recycling facilities.

> Waste Reduction Week was celebrated in Alberta in October 2005, and included:

- Public awareness and outreach events across the province to educate Albertans on waste reduction and recycling practices.
- All grade four classes in Alberta were invited to participate in the Reduce Your "Waste" line program.

> Alberta Environment launched Sort It Out! on May 2, 2005 in partnership with Access TV, the City of Edmonton, and the Beverage Container Management Board. Sort It Out! is a package of resources for Alberta students and educators about waste management using the City of Edmonton as an example. Approximately 1,070 SortItOut.ca teaching kits were distributed between September 2005 and February 2006. This project won a Canadian New Media Award for Excellence in Learning.



protecting our water

> Alberta Environment responded to the June 2005 flood in central and southern Alberta by:

- Sustaining 24-hour professional and technical flood management support;
- Operating and managing water management infrastructure;
- Working cooperatively with local governments to support public safety and drinking water supplies;
- Providing emergency operations support in Calgary, Red Deer, High River, Drumheller, and other communities; and
- Providing 24-hour on site support during critical time periods to Emergency Management Alberta.

> Following the flood, Alberta Environment continued to provide support by:

- Providing technical advice and assistance to municipalities and landowners to alleviate flood damage;
- Investigating possible dam failures;
- Streamlining the approvals process to allow emergency work to be done;
- Following up on boil water advisories to ensure drinking water quality was restored to the appropriate standards;
- Processing flood damage repairs and erosion control approvals;
- Preparing the Southern Region Emergency Plan draft strategy;
- Discussing flood management and post-flood damage with local authorities and individual stakeholders;
- Reviewing the Town of Okotoks flood risk mapping; and
- Holding an open house in Drumheller to review the impact of the flood, particularly on the operations at Dickson Dam.

> Alberta Environment responded to the train derailment and spill at Lake Wabamun by:

- Coordinating and reviewing cleanup efforts and monitoring plans;
- Designing, managing and reporting on main lake water quality monitoring;
- Participating in the Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Team;
- Attending public meetings; and
- Participating in significant cooperation between industry, stakeholders, provincial and federal agencies.

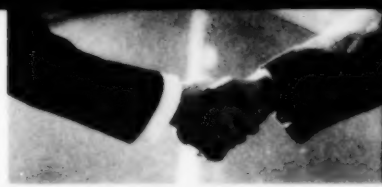
> Following the train derailment at Lake Wabamun, the first-ever Environmental Protection Commission was formed to review and make recommendations on Alberta's ability to respond to environmental incidents. Chaired by University of Alberta Chancellor Eric Newell, the Commission's 10 recommendations will help Alberta achieve a world-class system for managing risks and responding to emergencies, including environmental disasters. One of the Commission's recommendations was the formation of the Alberta Environmental Emergency Response Team, also known as the Environmental "SWAT" team.

> The Ministry presented the draft South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Plan to local MLAs, and held public consultation sessions and open houses across the basin. A Treaty 7 First Nations consultant has been retained to provide technical capacity and support in the review of the draft plan.

> Government released the *Report on Implementation Progress of Water for Life*, and the Alberta Water Council approved a 2006-09 Business Plan to set strategic priorities and guide the Council's work, including communications and links to Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils.

> Alberta Environment supported Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils in the Bow, North Saskatchewan, Oldman, and Red Deer river basins. Along with Watershed Stewardship Groups, these groups will make recommendations to government, stakeholders, and the public on improving water management throughout Alberta.

> A new Oilfield Injection Policy and Guideline was developed for implementation in 2006 to support the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Water Use Practice and Policy.



building partnerships

> In partnership with Alberta Energy and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Environment signed the Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management (SREM) Charter. This charter confirms the commitment to work more closely with each other, other departments, and Albertans to integrate natural resource and environmental management policies, streamline regulatory processes and align information that can be shared. Through SREM, Alberta aims to become the best natural resource and environmental manager in the world.

> A cross-ministry team led by Alberta Environment was established and completed an interim report, providing recommendations for an integrated policy framework for the upstream oil and gas sector, which was submitted to Deputy Ministers on March 31, 2006. Recommendations include advice on issues, solutions and opportunities, and incorporates advice from stakeholder interviews and a stakeholder workshop held November 18, 2005.

> Alberta Environment held six workshops during November 24-December 2, 2005 to engage young Albertans between the ages of 16 and 25 from different regions of the province. Attendees expressed their opinions on environmental priorities and provided advice to the department. Another 275 youth from around the province provided feedback through an online survey.

> Alberta Environment developed a consistent approach to First Nations' consultations by working with cross-ministry partners. The partnership developed a Framework for guidelines that each Ministry will follow. First Nations and industry were also involved in developing the framework.

> Alberta Environment strengthened partnerships with the Recycling Council of Alberta, Ducks Unlimited, Inside Education and Northern Coordination Action for Recycling Enterprises to expand delivery of classroom presentations, community presentations and professional development for teachers on waste management and wetlands.

educating albertans

> From April 20 to 22, 2005, the department hosted Alberta's Environment Conference in Edmonton. The first-ever conference was a multi-ministry initiative with assistance from Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Energy, and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development; and was delivered in partnership with the Environmental Services Association of Alberta. Over 650 managers, decision-makers, educators, and others from industry, municipal governments, First Nations, non-government environmental organizations and the public attended. The theme of the conference was connecting and collaborating, and topic streams included partnering for success, sharing knowledge, future trends and programs and policy. Delegates heard keynote addresses from the Premier, Environment Minister, Deputy Minister of Executive Council, and Deputy Minister of Environment. The conference helped build an understanding of how we protect and sustain the environment, and how Alberta continues to lead in this area.

> Albertans celebrated Environment Week June 5-11, 2005. This year's theme was water management and included numerous events and activities around the province. The week kicked off with the annual "Minister for the Day" program, which attracted participation of 650 students from across Alberta. Students learned about wetlands and wetland conservation in their classrooms. Seven finalists came to Edmonton on June 5, 2005 to meet with Environment Minister Guy Boutilier.

> In 2005-06, compliance sweeps were completed in the Fort Saskatchewan Industrial Area with 81 sites inspected; the Blindman Industrial Park sweep with 55 facilities in Red Deer County; a Hazardous Waste sweep in Medicine Hat, and a provincial anhydrous ammonia sweep of 53 facilities. No major compliance issues were identified and the approach significantly strengthened awareness and understanding among operators.

providing quality service

> The Ministry streamlined regulations by implementing three new codes of practice and amending seven regulations. Codes of practice are province-wide operating rules for activities that ensure consistency in operating requirements. They rely on the use of registrations or notices, which are less costly and onerous than approvals to authorize activities. The new codes reduced workloads for Albertans on over 250 registrations and approvals affecting compost facilities, waste management activities, and coal and oilsands exploration activities.

> Alberta conducted stakeholder consultations on proposed amendments to the *Climate Change and Emissions Management Act* as well as the proposed provisions of the Specified Gas Emitters Regulation. Alberta will continue to work with stakeholders to finalize both the Act and the regulations.

> Alberta Environment entered into a partnership with the Environmental Services Association of Alberta, which will run Alberta's Recycling Information Line. The service answers approximately 700 calls a month from municipalities, businesses and the general public, addressing a variety of questions on recycling and minimizing waste.

> Through the Education and Information Centre, department staff:

- Responded to nearly 2,800 e-mail requests;
- Processed more than 13,000 telephone calls;
- Distributed more than 50,000 publications; and
- Received over 244,000 hits to the Information Centre homepage.

> Alberta's State of the Environment website was launched to the public on June 10, 2005. The site provides information on the conditions of Alberta's environment through continuous reporting on important trends and pressures, and actions by the government and other agencies.

> In support of Service Alberta, the department conducted a baseline survey assessing client satisfaction in services provided through the Education and Information Centre in 2005. Responses were largely positive, particularly for:

- Accessibility (85 per cent);
- Courtesy (100 per cent);
- Going the extra mile (95 per cent);
- Timeliness (94 per cent); and
- Knowledge (93 per cent).

our people

> During the 2005-06 fiscal year, Alberta Environment invested in staff learning and development through many activities:

- People Day, the first organization-wide learning day, with a focus on Leadership;
- An ENVIROmentorship mentoring program with 15 mentor/partner pairs participating;
- Piloting the Certificate of Achievement in Safety Excellence program; and
- New staff orientation sessions including the Learning Curve program, a yearlong orientation program for new staff.

> The People Services Division in Alberta Environment continued to innovate by developing and staffing an Organizational Development area.

> Alberta Environment created the EnviroU staff development framework. The four priorities of the framework are: policy, systems thinking, facilitation, and relationship building. In 2005-06, the policy and systems modules were piloted, and the group facilitation modules were planned.

Contact Information

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